MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has it not been brought to the notice of Government that, unless this work is carried on promptly, the people will have to suffer this loss almost periodically?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I understand that the work that is proposed would benefit about 11 acres of land and the cost would come to Rs. 1,340. There have been several questions and communications with the Division Officer and we are trying to get out a satisfactory scheme for improving these particular channels.

*Paddy fields on the side of the Vamanapuram River.*

33. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is possible to water the paddy-fields that lie adjacent to the Vamanapuram river by erecting water-pumps by the side of the river:

(*b*) the approximate cost of erecting one water-pump;

(*c*) the approximate extent of paddy-fields for which water could be supplied by erecting one water-pump; and

(*d*) whether the Minor Irrigation Department has investigated the possibility of watering the paddy-fields by the side of the Vamanapuram river by erecting water-pumps?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) Yes, but at too heavy a cost both initial and recurring.

(*b*) Rs. 15,000.

(*c*) 50 acres.

(*d*) Yes.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that, as a result of the investigation conducted by the Minor Irrigation Department, as stated in part (*d*) of the answer, that in hundreds of *paras* of paddy fields, annually there is failure of crop, and that hundreds of *paras* of paddy fields are lying waste by the side of the Vamanapuram river.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): What I understand is that the last failure of crops in the fields under reference was about 20 years ago and it would cost about 15,000 rupees to irrigate about 50 acres *i. e.* Rs. 300 per acre.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that failure of crops in regard to paddy fields that lie on both sides of Vamanapuram river occurs very often?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): My information regarding your interpellation is that the last failure of crops in the fields under reference was about 25 years ago.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): If the irrigation and watering the fields is not possible, I wish to know what suggestion the Minor Irrigation Department has made to the Government in order to supply water for paddy cultivation there?

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MR. G. B E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I do not know whether there was any suggestion made to Government. This is a reply to the interpellation: whether the fields could be irrigated by pumping water. I say we can do it ;but the point is it will cost a lot of money.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Is it the position of Government that no exact investigation was made by the Minor Irrigation Department for watering the paddy fields there? Is that the answer ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : A joint inspection by the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Division Officer of the Irrigation Division was made and the report says that it would cost about Rs. 15,000 to irrigate 50 acres of land.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the date on which the Land Revenue Commissioner as well as the other officers inspected the site ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It is difficult to pick up the dates immediately. Perhaps if the honourable member be keen on that, either he would personally write a letter or put a supplementary interpellation.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Land Revenue Commissioner who was in charge at that time as well as the other officers came to the spot or simply waited on the road-side and returned without inspecting the spot?

MR. G B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I was not there, so I cannot say.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether those officers who have inspected the site have reported to the Government in regard to the method by which watering could be conducted ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It seems that the report was made on the joint inspection by the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Irrigation Division Officer.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the nature of the report submitted to Government ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : The nature of the report was that it would cost Rs. 15,000 to irrigate 50 acres.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the report contains the fact that the place requires irrigation ?

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It would cost Rs. 15,000.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether erecting water-pumps is the only solution contained in the report ?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : As I said, it is only 20 years ago that this flood happened. Now it appears hardly worth while to instal pumps.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government whether it is the position of the Government that owners of paddy fields that lie on both sides of the Vamanapuram river should depend upon nature alone for water?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Paddy fields are usually rain-fed or by gravity from river or canals.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government whether the Minor Irrigation Department would take up the work of irrigating these paddy fields that require water for cultivation?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : That has no bearing on the question. I have already answered what would be the cost. I believe that the Vamanapuram river is 30 feet lower than the fields.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Leaving apart the Vamanapuram river and erection of water-pumps, may I know whether the Government would see that the paddy field owners are provided with water to cultivate their fields?

SADASYA TILAKAN T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): A point of order. I wish to know whether in a quesion relating to the irrigating Vamanapuram fields a general question of irrigation lies?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): It is not the fields lying on the side of the Vamanapuram river but the Vamanapuram fields.

PRESIDENT : The point was whether you could bring under discussion now the general policy of Government in the matter. You are not entitled to do that.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I am not raising the question of policy, Sir. I just want to know how the Government propose to provide irrigation facilities for these particular fields.

PRESIDENT : For the 50 acres?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): There are hundreds of acres, Sir, in the locality. That is why I am putting the question.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : So far as I can see, the question relates only to 50 acres. There may be hundreds of acres on either side of the whole length of the Vamanapuram river.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I correct the Chief Engineer and point out to him—

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): On a point of order, Sir. At question time, can a member supply information, either for correcting the answer given or for any other purpose.

PRESIDENT : No.

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**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): I am not supplying any new information, Sir, I just want to correct him simply by referring to the answer that he himself has given.

**PRESIDENT**: You have to take it that it has been given as the correct answer.

**MR. S. J NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): May I know what action the Government intend taking in regard to the irrigation of the fields on either side of the Vamanapuram river?

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is a question of future action, Sir.

**RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR** (*Nominated*): Are there not rain-fed wet lands in various other parts of Travancore also?

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Quite a lot of them.

**MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): Is not the place fit for tapioca cultivation which is much more profitable than paddy? (*Laughter.*)

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have no information.

*Minor Irrigation in the Nedumangad Taluk.*

34. ***MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what works of improving tanks, *chiras*, canals, etc., were undertaken by the Minor Irrigation Department in the Nedumangad taluk during the last 10 years (1101-1110)?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a *pakuthi*-war statement of *chiras*, tanks, etc., that require to be improved in the interest of paddy cultivation in the Nedumangad taluk?

(*c*) Are the Government aware of the indifference on the part of the Minor Irrigation Department, so far as the interests of the agriculturists in the Nedumangad taluk are concerned?

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*): (*a*) (1) Restoring Parandottu Konattu *chira*, Kulathummal *pakuthi*, and

(2) Restoring Kulavikonattu *chira*, Nedumangad town.

(*b*) A list is under print.

(*c*) No; nor do they accept this statement.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): May I ask whether the Parandottu Konattu *Chira* and the Kulavikonattu *Chira* are not even now, useless for irrigation purposes, in spite of their restoration?

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I have no such information.

**MR. S. J. NAIR** (*Nedumangad*): Is the member aware that, as a result of the representations made in the old Assembly as well as in this Assembly by the member for Nedumangad, the present Land Revenue Commissioner has satisfied himself that the said *Chiras* are useless for irrigation purposes?

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